

CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A side air-bag for a motor vehicle, the side air-bag being a three-dimensional air-bag formed from two superimposed layers of fabric which, when laid flat, have at least a substantial common area of superimposition, there being infill pieces formed from either at least one gusset forming insert or from a portion or portions of the fabric of one or both of the fabric layers which
10 extend beyond the said common area of superimposition, the air-bag having an inflatable region towards the upper part of the air-bag and an inflatable region towards the lower part of the air-bag, the inflatable regions being separated by a part of the air-bag which is constrained, when the air-bag is inflated, to have a thickness less than the thickness of either of the said regions.
- 15 2. An air-bag according to Claim 1 wherein the air-bag includes an upper chamber forming said upper region and a lower chamber forming said lower region, the upper chamber and the lower chamber being separated by a transversely extending seam.
- 20 3. An air-bag according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the air-bag is formed from two layers of fabric of substantially identical configuration interconnected by means of a peripheral seam, there being at least one insert in said peripheral seam between the layers of fabric to form a gusset.
- 25 4. An air-bag according to Claim 3 wherein there are two inserts, one insert forming a gusset associated with one chamber and the other insert forming a gusset associated with a second chamber.

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5. An air-bag according to Claim 3 or 4 wherein an insert is provided with at least one vent aperture.

5 6. An air-bag according to Claim 5 wherein the or each vent aperture is initially sealed by means of a tear-seam.

7. An air-bag according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the superimposed layers of fabric have a substantial common area of superimposition, each layer
10 of fabric having one or more portions thereof which project beyond the area of superimposition, the peripheries of the areas being interconnected by means of a seam.

8. An air-bag according to Claim 2 or any claim dependent thereon wherein
15 a gas generator is present within the air-bag, the combination of the seam and the gas generator substantially sealing the two chambers from each other, the gas generator being configured to inflate the two chambers to different pressures.

20 9. An air-bag according to Claim 1 or any of Claims 3 to 7 dependent thereon wherein the superimposed layers of fabric each have two portions which project beyond the area of common overlap, the resultant air-bag having, when inflated, an upper chamber and a lower chamber, there being a narrow inflated neck between the upper chamber and the lower chamber.

25 10. An air-bag according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the two layers of fabric form part of a single fabric element.

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